



Department of the Interior Recovery Investments

Investing in America's Economic Recovery

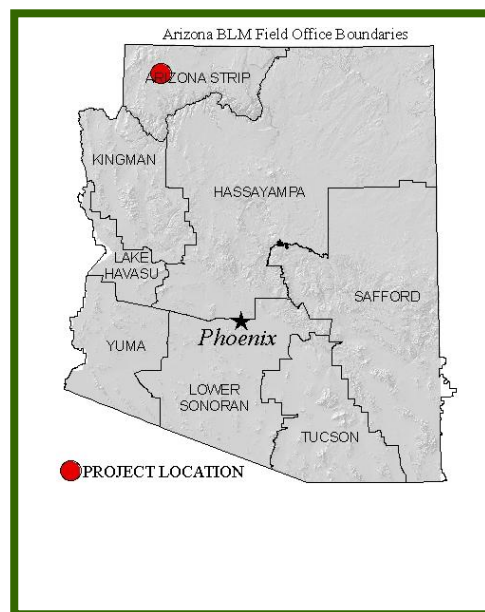


Mojave Desert Initiative (MDI)

Need

In recent years, one million acres of the Mojave Desert have been destroyed by fire. The goal of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Mojave Desert Initiative (MDI) is to restore 3.5 million acres of lands across Arizona, Nevada, and Utah and protect this non-fire adapted ecosystem, including critical habitat for the threatened Mojave Desert Tortoise.

The MDI project includes developing fuel breaks, improving a remote fire station, controlling invasive weeds, researching rehabilitation techniques, installing highway fencing to prevent tortoise mortality and monitoring the success of these improvements.



Recovery Act Funding

Information about the funding allocated for this Bureau of Land Management Arizona American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project will be released after the contracts have been awarded. Contracts to build tortoise fencing, apply herbicide treatments and construct fire station improvements will be awarded. The work on this project is scheduled to begin October, 2009 and be completed by November, 2010.

Benefits

This initiative is intended to protect the bio-diversity of the fragile Mojave Desert ecosystem and improve ecological function. Native plant communities and animal species, including the threatened Mojave Desert Tortoise, will benefit from habitat protection and rehabilitation efforts.



More Information

For more information about this BLM Arizona ARRA project, contact Scott Sticha, public affairs specialist, at 435-688-3303 or scott_sticha@blm.gov.